

Jarbridge RMP Newsletter

First Issue, May 2006

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Letter from the Field Manager

Greetings from the Idaho BLM Jarbridge Field Office. This is the first of several newsletters to provide you with information on the Jarbridge Resource Management Plan (RMP). Much has changed since 1987, and the revised plan will guide management decisions affecting the resources and uses of the planning area for the next 15 to 20 years.

This planning effort is also the result of a September 2005 Stipulated Settlement Agreement in the case of Western Watersheds Project v. Idaho BLM State Director K. Lynn Bennett. One provision of this agreement states that the Jarbridge Field Office must update its RMP by the Fall of 2009. This deadline means that the planning process must proceed efficiently. To achieve this, we are enabling specialists in the Field Office, along with BLM employees from other offices, to be dedicated solely to this RMP effort. We are confident that we can accomplish all that needs to be done in the time available.

The Jarbridge RMP Planning Area

The planning area extends from Salmon Falls Creek on the east to the Bruneau River on the west and from the Snake River on the north and to the northern boundaries of the BLM Elko Field Office and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the south. The area is located in Twin Falls, Owyhee, and Elmore Counties, Idaho, and Elko County, Nevada. The area encompasses ~1,366,000 acres of public land.

We will work in close consultation with the Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes throughout the planning process. Many cooperators and collaborators will be involved in this effort



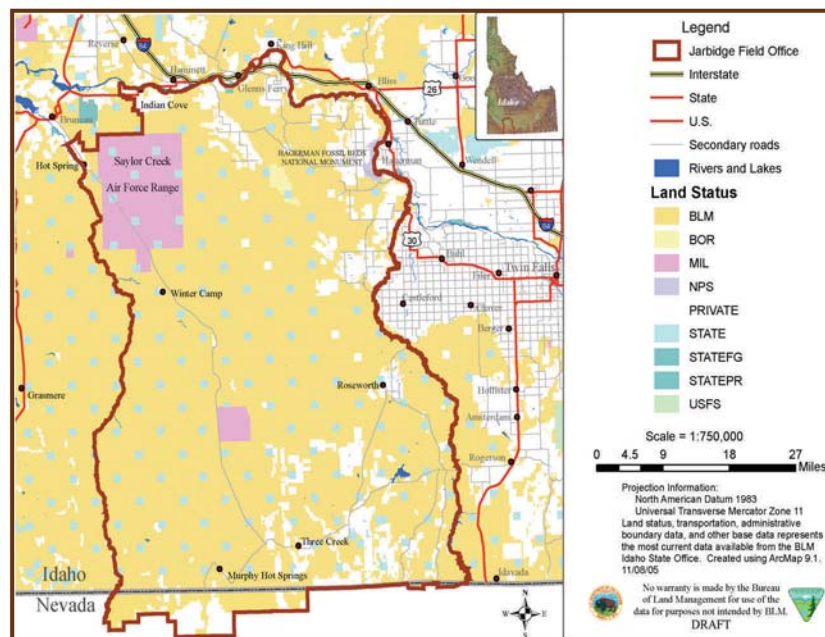
as well, including Federal and State agencies and affected city and county governments. We will work together with these partners to ensure that the final RMP represents a collaborative planning process.

The success of the RMP also requires input and participation

from you, and we thank those of you who have already provided valuable information. We encourage and welcome your comments about BLM management of the planning area and opportunities for change. Our planning team will review and document all comments received, and your comments will help us determine important issues to focus on during the planning process. You will also be able to comment on the draft RMP/EIS. We hope your interest in this planning effort continues and look forward to your feedback and ideas throughout the planning process.

Rick Vander Voet

Rick Vander Voet
Field Manager
Jarbridge Field Office



Jarbridge Field Office



Jarbridge RMP: What and Why

Decisions made in the RMP will be based on the goals of continuing to provide for multiple use and keeping renewable resources available for future generations.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Twin Falls District is preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Jarbridge Field Office (FO). The current Jarbridge RMP was completed 19 years ago in 1987.

The purpose of updating the Jarbridge RMP is to: (1) respond to resource conditions that have changed, (2) respond to new issues, (3) prepare a comprehensive framework for managing public lands administered by the Jarbridge FO for the foreseeable future, and (4) respond to the September 30, 2005 Stipulated Settlement Agreement in the case of Western Watersheds Project v. Bennett, under the jurisdiction of the District Court, District of Idaho. The Stipulated Settlement Agreement provides that the RMP will be completed by September 2009.

Decisions made in the RMP will be based on the goals of continuing to provide for multiple use and keeping renewable resources available



for future generations. The RMP will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team using the most current and best available information. The land use planning process will be completed in consultation with Tribes and collaboration with State and local governments, land users, and the interested public to provide for the use and protection of resources on these public lands. You are welcome to submit questions and comments throughout the process.

The final RMP will:

- Establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives;
- Identify lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses; and
- Provide comprehensive management direction for and/or allocate use of all resources.

Public Involvement and Ways You Can Participate

Public involvement is an integral part of preparing the Jarbridge RMP. Scoping is a process by which BLM solicits input on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP, as well as the methods and criteria by which they will be examined. The official scoping period began on January 10, 2006 with the publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register*. We have already received valuable scoping comments from over a dozen respondents via mail and e-mail. To be most helpful, comments should be submitted by **June 15, 2006**. Comments will also be received during the specified comment period following the printing of the draft RMP/EIS.

Some ways you can participate:

- Attend one or more of the open house meetings to learn about the project and planning process;
- Visit the official Jarbridge RMP website: www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbridge. The website will be updated with information, documents, and announcements throughout the planning process;



- Request to be added to the official Jarbridge RMP mailing list. **To continue receiving information on the Jarbridge RMP, you must request to be added to the official RMP mailing list.** You may do so by simply:
 1. Returning the postage-paid comment card included in this newsletter;
 2. E-mailing us at ID_Jarbridge_RMP@blm.gov; or
 3. Calling the Jarbridge Field Office at (208) 736-2350.

Please provide your name, mailing address, and e-mail address, as well as how you would like to be informed about the Jarbridge RMP.

Jarbridge RMP Timeline

Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an RMP/EIS published in the *Federal Register*

January 10, 2006

Draft RMP/EIS published; 90-day comment period begins

July 2007

Proposed RMP/Final EIS published; 30-day protest period begins

September 2008

Record of Decision signed

February 2009

Approved RMP printed

May 2009

Preliminary Planning Issues

A planning issue is a matter of wide public concern or external controversy over a resource or land use on public land. The preliminary issues that will be addressed in the Jarbridge RMP/EIS were identified by Jarbridge Field Office staff with ongoing input from the public and other cooperators. Your input is needed to refine and add to the preliminary issues. Your response will ensure that our public scoping process is effective in giving the planning team a good start to prepare the Draft RMP/EIS.

- Tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities
- Availability and management of public lands for commercial uses

(e.g., livestock grazing, minerals development)

- Vegetation management, including invasive species, noxious weeds, riparian areas, and wetlands
- Livestock grazing allocations
- Management of habitat for wildlife and special status species
- Management of transportation, public access, and recreational opportunities
- Land tenure adjustments and rights of way, including wind energy and utility corridors
- Wild horses
- Management of areas with special values



Saylor Creek Wild Horse Gather

Preliminary Planning Criteria

Planning criteria establish constraints, guidelines, and standards for the planning process. They help the planning team to define the scope of the process and estimate the extent of data collection and analysis. The BLM requests your input and may modify these preliminary criteria based on your comments.

- The plan will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and current policies, including local, State, Tribal, and Federal air quality standards, as well as water quality stan-

dards from the Idaho Non-Point Source Management Program Plans.

- The RMP planning effort will be collaborative in nature. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complementary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the limits described by law and Federal Regulations.
- The BLM will continue to manage all previously established Wilder-

ness Study Areas for wilderness values and character until Congress either designates them as wilderness areas or releases them for other types of multiple use management.

- The RMP will recognize all valid existing rights.
- As part of this RMP process, BLM will analyze areas for potential designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and river corridors for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONSIDERATIONS: Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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Upcoming Open Houses for Jarbidge RMP

To provide you with an opportunity to learn about the planning process and to submit feedback on the RMP and the preliminary issues and planning criteria, the Jarbidge Field Office has scheduled four open house sessions.

Twin Falls, Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Red Lion Hotel-Canyon Springs, 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd N

Buhl, Thursday, May 18, 2006

8th Street Center, 200 N 8th St

Glenns Ferry, Tuesday, May 23, 2006

History Center at Three Island Crossing State Park,
1083 S Three Island Park Dr (entrance fee waived)

Three Creek, Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Three Creek School, 49909 Three Creek Rd

**All open houses will be held from 5 to 8 pm, except
Three Creek (5 to 7 pm).**

Dates and locations of other planning meetings and workshops will be announced through mailings, the Jarbidge RMP website, and through local media releases.

Jarbidge RMP Contact Information:

Web: www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbidge

E-mail: ID_Jarbidge_RMP@blm.gov

Fax: (208) 736-2375 (Attn: Jarbidge RMP)

Mail: RMP Project Manager, Jarbidge Field Office,
2536 Kimberly Rd, Twin Falls ID 83301

Public Scoping for Jarbidge RMP

The Jarbidge Field Office would like to thank those who have already submitted scoping comments for the Jarbidge RMP and would encourage others to submit their comments on the issues in the planning area, as well as the planning criteria to be used during the RMP process. To be most helpful, **your written comments should be submitted by June 15, 2006**, by any of the methods shown in the box above. If you do not wish to comment but wish **to continue receiving information on the Jarbidge RMP, you must request to be added to the official RMP mailing list**. You can also submit comments using the postage-paid, mail-back comment card inside this newsletter.